

# THE RANKS OF THE PRIESTHOOD



## CLERGYMEN

- Clergymen are persons ordained to perform religious services.
- In the Old Testament, God chose individuals to minister to His people as priests:
  - Consecrated them, commanded that they dress in specially designed robes.
- Exodus 29:9: "*And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.*"



## CLERGYMEN

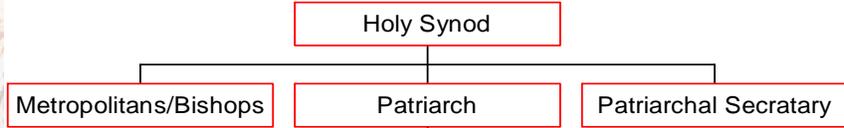
- In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ appointed His disciples and gave them authority to preach His works.
- *"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Mat 28:18-20)*



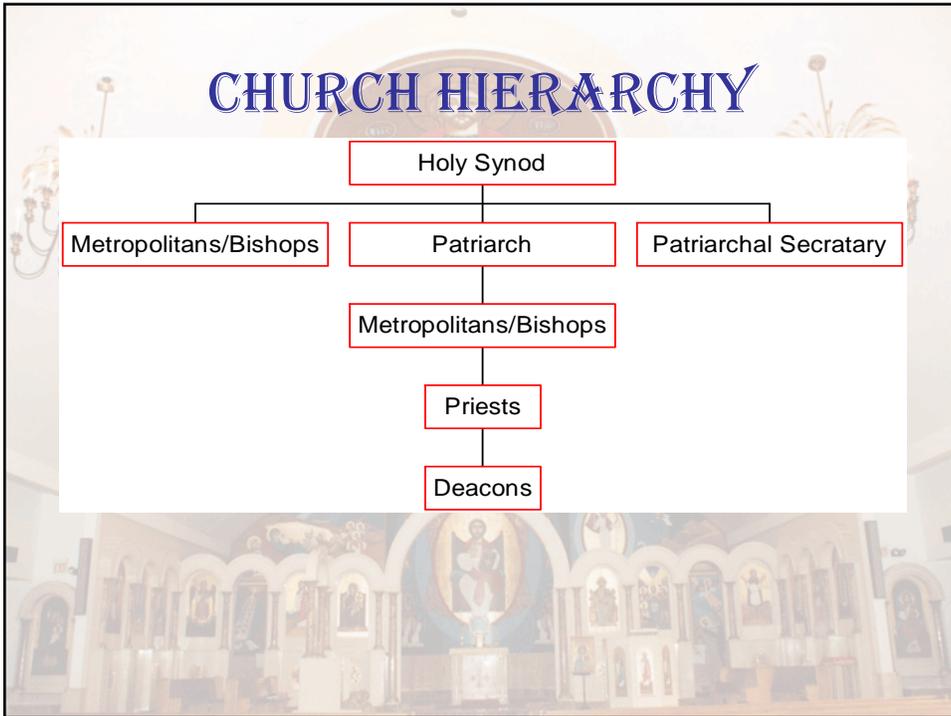
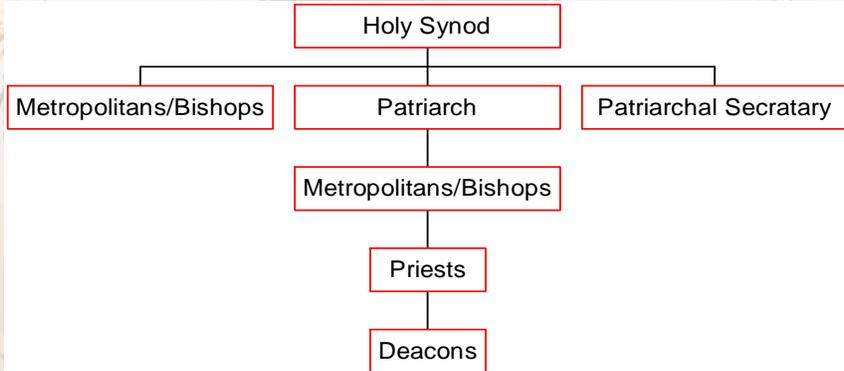
## CLERGYMEN

- The Holy Order of the Coptic Orthodox Church may be grouped into three basic general ranks:
  - The **episcopate**, meaning the order of the bishop, or the shepherd.
  - The **presbyterate**, in reference to the order of the priest, or the teacher.
  - The **deaconate**, meaning the order of the deacon, or the server.

# CHURCH HIERARCHY



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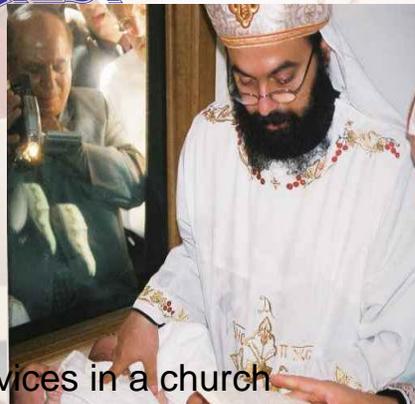
## THE BISHOP

- A Shepherd
- Oversees a diocese (bishopric)
- Ranks:
  - Bishop
  - Metropolitan
  - Patriarch
- Duties:
  - Overseeing all the services in a diocese
  - Ordination of priests and deacons
  - Consecration of churches and vessels
  - Embalming of the relics of the saints



## THE PRIEST

- A teacher
- Ranks
  - Presbyter
  - Hegomen
- Duties:
  - Overseeing all the services in a church
  - Administering the Church Sacraments
  - Recommendations for ordinations of deacons



## A NEW NAME

- After the 'laying of the hands', the new clergyman is given a new name after one of the saints.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ gave new names to His chosen apostles.
- The new name indicates a beginning of a new life as a servant of God.



## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEACONATE RANK

- The rank of deacons originated at the time of the apostles, when the apostles were not able to attend to every small need of the believers.
- *"It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty."* (Acts 6)



## QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

- *"Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well." (1 Tim 3:8-12)*

## THE DEACONATE RANK

- The term "deacon" is derived from the Greek *diakonos* which means "servant".
- Ranks:
  - Archdeacon
  - Deacon
  - Sub-deacon
  - Reader
  - Psalter
  - Deaconess
  - Qayem



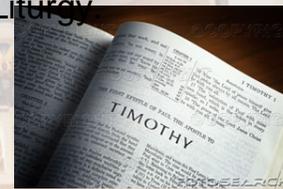
## PSALTERS – “PSALTOS”

- Chanters during the Divine services.
- "Psalter" is derived from the Coptic word psaltis.
- Leads the congregation in hymns and praises
- Attire: White Tunic – symbol of angels



## READER - “ANAGHANOSTOS”

- Reads the scriptures well to the congregation, and explain them.
- Reads the list of Patriarchs - *“Let those who read recite the name of our holy patriarchs...”* - after the commemoration of the saints
- Must understand what he is reading.
- Must constantly read the Bible
- Reads explanations of the holy Church fathers.
- Helps in the preparation and arrangement of the vessels before and after the Divine Liturgy
- Attire:
  - White Tunic
  - Red “Patrasheel” (sash) in the shape of cross (X)



## SUB-DEACON – “EPI-DIAKON”

- Helper of the deacon
- Guards the doors of the church during the Divine services so that there is no disturbance caused inside by the outside.
- Assists the deacon in the service
- Attire:
  - White Tunic
  - Red “Patrasheel” (sash) on the right shoulder



## DEACON – “DIAKON”

- Fully consecrated for the service
- Duties:
  - Helps the bishop and the priests by preparing the bread, wine, water, vessels, candles, books, and the Sanctuary for the Liturgy.
  - Keeps order in the Church, assists the priests and bishop, holds the chalice of the Blood of Emmanuel, and guards the Holy Mysteries during Communion.
  - Teaches, distributes money to the needy, visits and comforts the ill, widows, orphans, and prisoners.
  - In the early Church, they also baptized (Acts 8:4-18), and delivered communion to the sick.



## DEACON – “DIAKON”

- Consecration:
  - Can marry only before the ordination
  - Can not marry after ordination, even if wife dies
  - A widow who has married a second time can not be ordained
- Attire:
  - During the services
    - Black robe
    - White Tunic
    - Red “Patrasheel” (sash)
    - 'crown' on their head
  - During all other times:
    - a black robe
    - a cross
    - A belt around their waist to distinguish them from priests.



## ARCHDEACON – “ARCHI-DIAKON”

- Head of all ranks of the deaconate.
- Duties:
  - Makes all necessary arrangements for church services;
  - Assigns various tasks to deacons, sub-deacons, readers, and psalters;
  - Keeps church books, vessels, and vestments;
  - Ensures that charity is received by the needy;
  - Acts as a contact on behalf of the bishop;
  - Participates in recommending candidates for the Holy Orders.
- Attire: similar to deacon



## DEACONESS

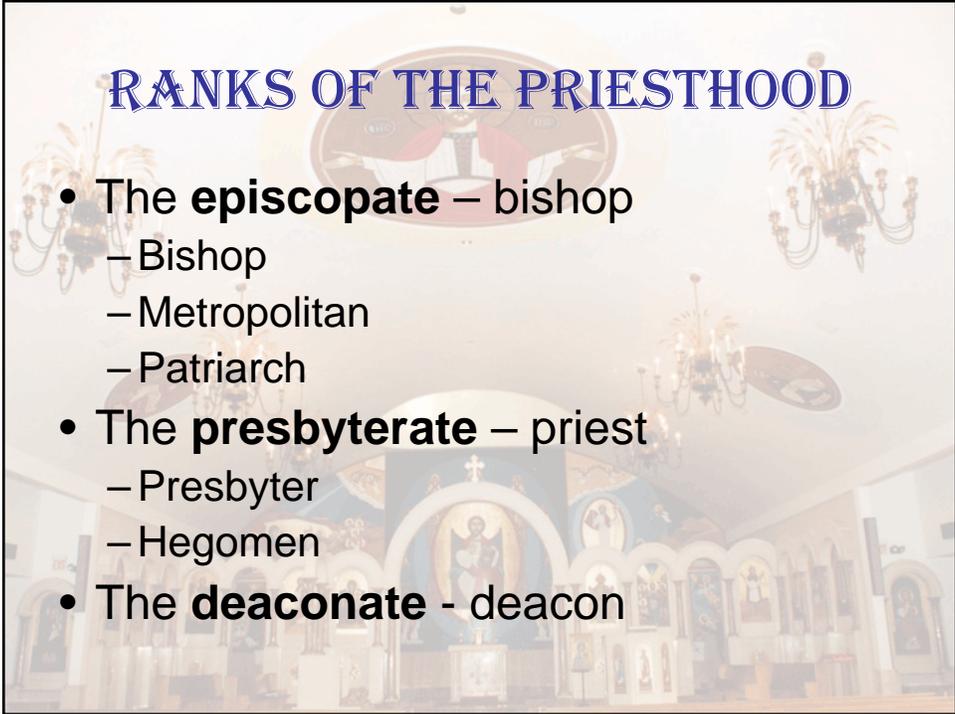
- Female servant
- Examples:
  - New Testament: Phoebe (Rom 16:1)
  - Church History: Olympias, deaconess of St. John Chrysostom
- Consecrated for the service
  - Must be a virgin or a widow
  - Ordained by a bishop
- Assists the priest in the service of the women.
  - Visitations: poor, sick
  - Baptisms and anointing
  - Keeping order in the church, during Communion
  - Praising



## QAYEM

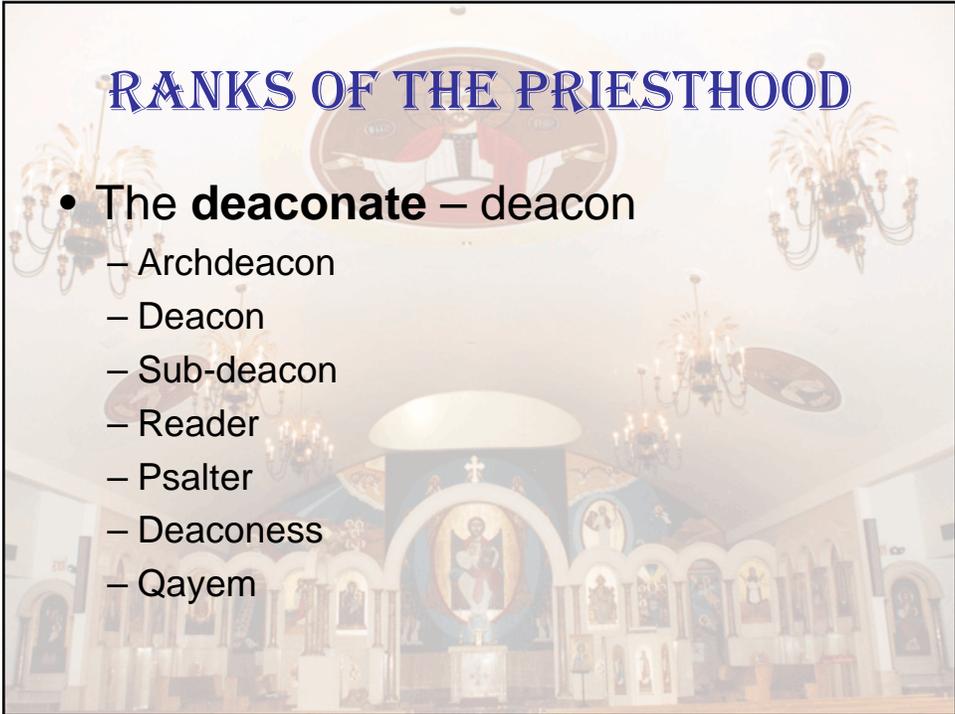
- Oblations-maker
- Must be a deacon
- Must know the psalms, to chant them while making the oblations.





## RANKS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

- The **episcopate** – bishop
  - Bishop
  - Metropolitan
  - Patriarch
- The **presbyterate** – priest
  - Presbyter
  - Hegomen
- The **deaconate** - deacon



## RANKS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

- The **deaconate** – deacon
  - Archdeacon
  - Deacon
  - Sub-deacon
  - Reader
  - Psalter
  - Deaconess
  - Qayem